28th September 1955] [Mr. Speaker]

2. In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I return the Madras Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 29 of 1955), as passed by the Council on the 27th September 1955 without any recommendation and signed by me.''

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* SPREAD OF LEPROSY IN AND AROUND VALLIAMMALPURAM, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice of a motion under rule 40 from the hon. Member, Sri M. S. Selvarajan, calling the attention of the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., spread of leprosy in and around Valliammalpuram, Tirunelveli district. I request the hon. Member to say what he has to say on the matter.

* SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my motion is to call the attention of the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., spread of leprosy in and around Valliammalpuram, Tirunelveli district. Sir, leprosy has been spreading in the Valliammalpuram of Tiruchendur taluk in an endemic form for a long time. Many representations have been made to the department. In spite of it, action is delayed. Hence, I have moved this motion. Though only temporary relief measures are being started the measures taken are inadequate. So, permanent relief is quite essential in the form of opening of a leprosy clinic preferably in a village part where men and women can go without feeling shy. So, I request the Hon. Minister to make necessary arrangements for opening a leprosy clinic in or near Valliammalpuram.

In addition, I request that some propaganda measures through magic lanterns and other things may also be taken to make the people understand that leprosy is a curable disease.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI: On a point of order, Sir. It is stated to us in the notice of the motion circulated to us that it is to be taken up on the 29th September 1955. So, I want to know whether it is taken up to-day or is to be taken up to-morrow.

MR. SPEAKER: We are now on the motion given notice of by the hon. Member, Sri M. S. Selvarajan.

* SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN: The hon. Member refers to another motion which is to be taken up to-morrow. Now, in addition to the opening of a permanent leprosy clinic in Valliammalpuram, I request that some more aid may be given to the existing hospitals or dispensaries at Tuticorin, Tiruchendur and Nazareth. Arrangements for treatment of leprosy have been made in Tiruchendur taluk and Srivaikuntam taluk and in Megnanapuram also. Action may also be taken to examine by what measures the disease can be prevented wherever it is spreading in Tiruchendur taluk.